

## National Republican.

W. J. MURTAGH, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE REPUBLICAN HAS A LARGER CIRCULATION THAN ANY OTHER MORNING PAPER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1874.

**TO THE PUBLIC.**  
The business office of THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN for the present will continue at Tenth and D streets, which place all persons having business relations with the paper will call. Due notice will be given of the removal of the business department to the new REPUBLICAN building.

## SOUTH CAROLINA.

Some weeks since a few of the land-owners of South Carolina, styling themselves "tax-payers," convened and memorialized the Congress of the United States for relief from the onerous burdens which they declared they were laboring under as a consequence of Republican rule. A reply to this memorial, prepared by the State Republican Central Committee, has just been presented to Congress.

It is not at all a statement of the facts, attested by the official figures, and affords a complete and most triumphant vindication of the present Republican government of the State.

The "tax-payers" are men of the old regime, the Wade Hampton type, who have an idea that because the taxes of a community are assessed against the land, that the land-owners should pay the taxes. It is now pretty well understood that the labor expended upon the land pays the tax assessed against it. These lords of the soil in South Carolina, when they make a contract with a laborer to till their soil upon shares, always include the item of taxation as one portion of the expenses which they are compelled to bear as a result of cultivating the share of the products to be allotted to labor. This fact of itself is an acknowledgment that the laborer is the real tax-payer. So much for the assumption that the land-owners have the exclusive right to control taxation. It is an exploded idea of a past generation.

After temperately discussing the history of the course of these disaffected tax-payers since the war, and showing that they purposely stood aloof from the dominant party, and frequently invited to participate in its councils, preferring first to try the democracy of Seymour and Blair, and then that of the Ku-Klux, but having been beaten at both, they now turn to abusing and misrepresenting those by whom they have been fairly beaten, the committee take the allegations of the memorialists, and refute them by the most incontestible evidence. Comparing the expenditures of the State government the last year before the war with those of the year last past, it is shown that the former were \$181,231 as against \$1,184,876 for the latter. But in 1869 there were 402,408 slaves who were of no expense whatever to the State except the wages they received, and which now the class are citizens and participate in the cost and expenses of the government, so that although the aggregate cost of government is apparently much increased, the cost per capita of the citizens is less, being only \$1.07 now as against \$2.05 in 1869. This difference added to the expenses of last year would have increased the cost of the government to \$261,617.30. Education, lunatic asylums, State orphan houses and the new penitentiary, consume some \$400,000 of the excess of expenditure. Formerly educational institutions and asylums for the poor and unfortunate of the colored race were not needed, as their owners were obliged to provide for them at private cost.

In regard to the printing appropriation of which so much has been said, it is shown that \$335,000 of the \$450,000 was for printing extraordinary matter—codes, reports, and the like—which will not have to be repeated again for years, and this was ordered by former Legislatures and covered a period of three years. But the appropriation for the whole had to be made last year. This left only \$115,000 for the printing of the year proper and the cost of advertising the laws.

Of the State debt, alleged to be \$16,000,000, the committee show that six millions of it, issued without authority, has been pronounced illegal, and of the remaining ten millions five was contracted before the war by the Democrats, and five by the Republicans since; but of the latter five \$300,000 was floating debt, and the Democrats in 1869, when the public were obliged to provide for by funding. This leaves but \$1,700,000 of the whole ten millions properly chargeable to the Republican party in the State.

In conclusion the committee admit that their party have probably made some mistakes, and possibly committed errors, but insist that there are good men among them, and that their party to rectify them, and that they are determined to do so. The document is a sensible review of the affairs of the State and a scathing exposition of the misrepresentations and subtleties of the self-styled tax-payers. It can but have a favorable effect upon all unprejudiced members of Congress.

## CONGRESS AND THE CENTENNIAL.

We are not of those who would understate the importance of the proposed Centennial exhibition, or of the benefits which may come from it. The year 1876 should certainly be commemorated by something more than a mere display of goods, and the idea of holding a grand exhibition of the resources of the country was a very natural one. By its acts of 1871 and 1872 Congress gave the Centennial movement not only a national but also an international character. The President in his proclamation of July 3, 1874, referred to it as a national celebration and commended it to the people of the United States, and "in behalf of this Government and people," he commended the exhibition to all nations which might be pleased to take a part therein.

As required by the act of March 3, 1871, he also caused the proclamation and general regulations of the commission to be communicated to foreign nations.

The same act declares that the exhibition shall be one of "American and foreign arts, products, manufactures," &c., and that section of the commission are required to report to Congress, among other things, the "regulate custom-house regulations for the introduction into this country of the articles from foreign countries intended for exhibition." The act of June 1, 1873, is entitled "An act relative to the Centennial International Exhibition," &c., and all the legislation of Congress goes to show that

something more than a national exhibition was contemplated from the beginning. It now appears that several Governments, having received the President's proclamation and the accompanying letter of the Secretary of State, as an invitation, have given notice of their purpose to be represented at Philadelphia in 1876, while others, who decline to do so, have others to whether they have or have not been invited to do so. In 1853 the French Government, through its diplomatic representative in this city, invited the United States to take part in the Paris exposition of 1857 in these words:

"The Government of His Majesty charges me to give notice officially of these decrees (referring to the decrees ordering the exhibition) to the Cabinet of Washington, to invite its valuable concurrence, and to request that designate an authority with which the Imperial Commission can have a direct understanding."

It is in order to comply with the courtesy ordinarily under such circumstances that the Senate is now asked to pass the brief act authorizing the President to cordially invite foreign Governments to take part in the Centennial exhibition, which act recently passed the House by vote 200 to 42. It is not at all the presence of crowned heads, with costly retinues, as intimated by Mr. Sumner, but to insure the appointment of commissioners and a full representation of the arts and industries of other countries for comparison with those of our own, which we most earnestly desire, albeit our national existence covers but a single century.

The Government cannot by any act of Congress be more fully committed to an international exhibition than it now is, and the adoption of this supplemental act will simply provide for the direct official invitation which, by usage, most foreign Governments expect, and without which their hesitate, however kindly disposed, to take action.

We will not at this time discuss the question of a Congressional appropriation for the Centennial, although the exhibitions thus far held in Europe have been almost entirely provided for by the Governments.

In the case of the Paris Exposition of 1867, the National Government of France and the city of Paris provided about three fifths of the capital for the purposes of the exhibition, and the balance was made up by private subscriptions.

The financial basis of the Austrian International Exhibition of 1873 was as follows: 1st. The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars was subscribed chiefly by the Emperor of Austria.

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